

Ser. No. 10/825,574
Amendment A dated March 12, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated December 14, 2006

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating performance by a participant in an event that includes movement along a course, the method comprising:
 - monitoring a first performance by a first participant in a first event;
 - accessing a geographic database that includes data that represents features in a first geographic area;
 - using the geographic database to match the first performance to a first course located in the first geographic area to provide first course data;
 - comparing the first performance of the first participant to a second performance based, at least in part, upon the first course data; and
 - providing an indication of the comparing to the first participant.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the event is one selected from a group consisting of: running, bicycling, a road rally, a triathlon, a soap box derby, a dog sled race, cross-country skiing, sledding, a roller blade race, race walking, rowing, a steeplechase street luge, adventure racing, snow boarding, rock climbing, and extreme runs.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the first participant is stationary relative to the first course and the movement along the first course is simulated.

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4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the first participant physically moves along the first course.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 further comprising: determining positions of the first participant during the first performance.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the positions of the first participant are determined using a first positioning device.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 6 wherein the first positioning device is selected from a group consisting of: a Global Positioning System~~GPS~~ unit, a Differential Global Positioning System~~DGPS~~ unit, cell phone positioning technology that uses triangulation, cell phone positioning technology that uses time-of-arrival, cell phone positioning technology that uses direction-of-arrival, and beacons.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the positions of the first participant are transmitted as data wirelessly from a first communications device located with the first participant.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the second performance is by a second participant.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the second performance is along a second course located in a second geographic area, which is different from the first geographic area.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 further comprising: determining positions of the second participant during the second performance.

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12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the positions of the second participant are determined using a second positioning device.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12 wherein the second positioning device is selected from a group consisting of: a Global Positioning System~~GPS~~ unit, a Differential Global Positioning System~~DGPS~~ unit, cell phone positioning technology that uses triangulation, cell phone positioning technology that uses time-of-arrival, cell phone positioning technology that uses direction-of arrival, and beacons.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the positions of the second participant are transmitted as data wirelessly from a second communications device located with the second participant.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the second performance is along the first course, but occurred at a previous time.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the second performance is by the first participant along the first course, but occurred at a previous time.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the second performance is along a second course located in a second geographic area, which is different from the first geographic area, and further wherein the second performance is by the first participant, but occurred at a previous time.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the indication is provided to the first participant during the event.

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19. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the indication is provided to the first participant during the event via a wireless communications device.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the first participant is stationary relative to the first course and the movement along the course is simulated by a machine operably connected directly to a program that compares the first performance to the second performance and provides the indication to the first participant.

21. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a monitoring means that monitors a first user's performance in an event that involves movement along a first course and provides an output indicative thereof;
a geographic database that includes data that represents features in a first geographic area that includes the first course; and
a competition comparison and equivalency program that receives the output from the monitoring means, matches the first user's performance to the first course to provide first course data, and provides the first user with an indication that compares the first user's performance to a second performance based, at least in part, upon the first course data.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 21 wherein the first user's performance is monitored by a stationary machine that simulates movement along the first course.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 21 wherein the first user's performance is monitored by a positioning unit that determines positions of the first user in the first geographic area while the first user is moving along the first course in the first geographic area.

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24. (New) A computer-readable medium having executable instructions stored thereon in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

25. (New) An apparatus having executable instructions stored thereon in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

26. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein accessing a geographic database that includes data that represents features in a first geographic area further comprises:

accessing data that represents features suitable for navigation in the first geographic area.

27. (New) The system of Claim 21 wherein the geographic database comprises data that represents features suitable for navigation in the first geographic area.

28. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein the first course data comprise one or more selected from a group of geographic coordinates associated with positions, latitude coordinates associated with positions, longitude coordinates associated with positions, street names associated with roads, roads, associations between roads, landmarks, addresses ranges, walkways, pedestrian paths, bicycle paths, hiking rails, jogging rails, waterways, point of interest, bodies of water, mountain ranges, surface types, land cover, length, elevation, direction, wind direction, temperature, humidity, changes in lengths, changes in elevations, changes in directions, changes in surfaces, changes in wind directions, changes in temperatures, and changes in humidity, in the first course.

29. (New) The system of Claim 21 wherein the first course data comprise one or more selected from a group of geographic coordinates associated with

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positions, latitude coordinates associated with positions, longitude coordinates associated with positions, street names associated with roads, roads, associations between roads, landmarks, addresses ranges, walkways, pedestrian paths, bicycle paths, hiking rails, jogging rails, waterways, point of interest, bodies of water, mountain ranges, surface types, land cover, length, elevation, direction, wind direction, temperature, humidity, changes in lengths, changes in elevations, changes in directions, changes in surfaces, changes in wind directions, changes in temperatures, and changes in humidity, in the first course.

30. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a monitor device that monitors a first performance by a participant in an event that includes movement along a course to provide a first performance output;

a memory having a second performance output and a geographic database with data that represents features in a geographic area where the course is located; and

an application operably coupled to the monitoring device and memory, wherein the application receives the first performance output, accesses data that represents at least a portion of the geographic area from the geographic database, matches the first performance output to the course from data of the geographic database to provide course data, and compares the first performance output to the second performance output to provide a comparison output, based, at least in part, upon the course data.

31. (New) The apparatus of Claim 30 further comprising:

a user interface operably coupled to the application, wherein the user interface provides the comparison between the first performance output and the second performance output to the participant.

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32. (New) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein the monitor device further comprises:

a stationary machine that simulates movement along the course.

33. (New) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein the monitor device further comprises:

a positioning unit that determines a plurality of positions of the participant in the geographic area while the participant is moving along the course, wherein the first performance output is based, at least in part, upon the plurality of positions.

34. (New) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein the geographic database comprises data that represents features suitable for navigation in the geographic area.

35. (New) The system of Claim 30 wherein the course data comprise one or more selected from a group of geographic coordinates associated with positions, latitude coordinates associated with positions, longitude coordinates associated with positions, street names associated with roads, roads, associations between roads, landmarks, addresses ranges, walkways, pedestrian paths, bicycle paths, hiking rails, jogging rails, waterways, point of interest, bodies of water, mountain ranges, surface types, land cover, length, elevation, direction, wind direction, temperature, humidity, changes in lengths, changes in elevations, changes in directions, changes in surfaces, changes in wind directions, changes in temperatures, and changes in humidity, in the first course.